80% in Poll Doubt Oswald Acted Alone

Special to The Times

PRINCETON, N.J.—The overwhelming majority of the Americans interviewed in a recent Gallup Poll believe that Lee Harvey Oswald did not act alone in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy 13 years ago in Dallas.

The survey found that 80% thought that other persons had been involved in the assassination. Eleven per cent said they believed Oswald had acted alone and 9% expressed no opinion.

The poll, involving 1,500 interviews in 300 communities across the nation, was carried out during four days beginning Dec. 10.

Persons with a college background, although overwhelmingly of the opinion that some form of conspiracy had been involved, were less inclined to hold this view than were persons with less than a college background.

About half of the survey respondents who believed others had been involved did not name a specific group. Among those who did, Cuba or Castro were mentioned most often. Other frequent responses were the Mafia, Communists and the CIA.

The same survey showed that few Americans believed James Earl Ray had acted on his own in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King in Memphis in 1968. Only 18% held this view; 69% thought others were involved, and 13% had no opinion.

A week after the Kennedy assassination, a large majority of Americans expressed doubt that Oswald had acted alone. A survey taken three years later, in 1967, indicated that the doubts had not been resolved.

Here is the question asked in the three surveys:

"Do you think one man was responsible for the assassination of President Kennedy, or do you think others were involved?"

Here is the trend:

	One Man	Others Involved	No Opinion
November, 1963	29%	52%	19%
January, 1967	36	50	14
December, 1976	11	80	9

This question also was asked:

"Do you think one man was responsible for the assassination of Martin Luther King, or do you think others were involved?"

	One Man	Others Involved	No Opinion
December, 1976	18%	69%	13%